

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 7, 9, 13, and 14. Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims define patentable subject matter.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimori (U.S. Patent No. 7,009,942) in view of Fellman (U.S. Patent No. 6,980,990). Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited references for at least the feature “recognizing a first device that has been connected to a network without being assigned a nickname, wherein the recognizing includes determining that the first device was not assigned a nickname at a time of manufacture of the first device to be provided to the network.”

The Advisory Action indicates that the Response filed July 9, 2008 has been considered but fails to place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner asserts that Fujimori clearly teaches in column 8, lines 27-29, that a line name and an apparatus (Fig. 4A and col. 8, line 36) are automatically assigned when the apparatus is connected to a LAN. The Examiner also asserts that a line name is no different than a nickname and the Examiner notes that the claims do not recite function of the nickname.

The Examiner asserts that when broadly interpreted, the present claims merely recite assigning a name to a device when the device is connected to a network. Applicant has considered Examiner’s arguments and finds they are not entirely unreasonable. As such, Applicant adds claim limitations to further define the claims and overcome the cited references.

In Applicant's Response filed on July 9, 2008, it was argued:

Fujimori teaches that a line name is "specific" to each apparatus because only a terminal of the connection apparatus and a line therebetween is connected to a terminal of the apparatus. Thus, the terminal of the connection apparatus which is identified by the line name is merely specific to the apparatus it is connected to. For example, Figures 4A, 4B, 5A and 5B are lists showing the connection state of the mLAN system and the lists are displayed in accordance with the apparatus information and connection information (col. 7, lines 61-66). Figure 4A, for example, shows an apparatus name "MD1" as a name of the apparatus connected to the connection apparatus. However, MD1 is provided by the apparatus itself and is not a name generated by the connection apparatus (see col. 3, lines 45-49). Similarly, apparatus MD2 and apparatus MD3 each have their own names. MD1, MD2 and MD3 are merely examples and could be any name that is provided by the apparatus. Fujimori does not teach or suggest that an apparatus being connected to the connection apparatus is connected without a nickname. Instead, Fujimori clearly teaches that the apparatus has a name which it provides as apparatus information and that associations with the connection apparatus are created and assigned thereafter.

Therefore, it appears that Fujimori teaches that each apparatus is assigned a "nickname" at the time of manufacture and provides the name to the connection apparatus to be assigned to a terminal of the connection apparatus (see also col. 3, line 45 - col. 4, line 51). Fujimori does not teach "determining that [a] device was not assigned a nickname at a time of manufacture." On the contrary, Fujimori seems to teach a nickname is provided by the device itself and is not a name generated by the connection apparatus (see col. 3, lines 45-49).

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 7, 9, 13, and 14 and their dependent claims 2-6, 8, 10-12, and 15-16 are further distinguished from the cited art of record by amending the claims to define the "recognizing" feature as "recognizing a first device that has been connected to a network without being assigned a nickname, wherein the recognizing includes determining that the first device was not assigned a nickname at a time of manufacture

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No.: 10/816,888

Attorney Docket No.: Q79990

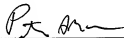
of the first device to be provided to the network" or a self-explanatory variation of this language.

This amendment is clearly supported by the disclosure.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 10, 2008